MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot see what doubt there is.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I suppose I have made myself clear. I wish to know whether the question as to whether the appointment of a Commissioner or the question of the choice of an officer is engaging the attention of the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have answered that in the first part.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is, what he has not.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Commissioner has not been appointed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The choice of the officer or whether the officer is necessary or not?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question of staff, clerks, etc.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the staff has been fixed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. But there is a provision in the Budget.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I know that fact. I do not want that information from him. I have got the Budget. But I want to know whether anything whatsoever has been done in regard to the fixing of the staff?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are considering the question of nomination.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether during the six months that elapsed after Government got sanction for the money?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Money is to be spent in the course of the year.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Whether anything has been done?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are considering the question.

The Attakulam tank in Vadasseri Pakuti.

143. MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Public Works Department removed a 'Surplus escape' from the Attakulam tank, Vadasseri pakuti, near the Putheri Village;

(*b*) if so, the date of removal;

(*c*) whether any breach occurred in the Attakulam in 1104, and if so, the date of the breach;

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(*d*) whether the breach was due to the removal of the surplus escape;

(*e*) if not, the cause of it;

(*f*) whether any representations were made to the Public Works Department before the breach occurred pointing out the imminent danger of a breach in this tank on account of the removal of the surplus escape; and

(*g*) if so, the action taken thereon by the P. W. D. authorities in the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In 1103.

(*c*) Yes; in Mithunam 1104.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) It was caused under suspicious circumstances and the matter is under investigation by the Police.

(*f*) Yes, the ryots petitioned the Sub-Division Officer in May 1929.

(*g*) The tank was inspected by the P. W. D. Officers and was found to be in safe condition.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): With reference to the answer to part (*e*), may I know the 'suspicious circumstances'?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is what the Chief Engineer reports. It was under suspicious circumstances and he has placed the matter in the hands of the Police. I cannot state anything further than that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): With reference to part (*g*), may I know the officers who made the Inspection?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not able to say which particular officer inspected it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Can he give the grade of the officer?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer gives only so much information.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Now on what authority is the statement made that the breach was not due to the removal of the surplus escape?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is the Chief Engineer's report.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The Chief Engineer's report again! Is that report based on anything substantial?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer himself inspected it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know why the surplus escape if it was found to be unnecessary was allowed to be there?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Can the Government say how long it was there?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Appointment of members of depressed classes in the P. W. Department.

144. MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) the number of members of the depressed classes employed in the P. W. Department during 1100 to 1104;

(*b*) the number of applications received from the members of the depressed classes during the years 1100 to 1104; and

(*c*) the number of members of the depressed classes who were appointed during the years 1100 to 1104?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*). A statement * showing the appointment of members of depressed classes in the P. W. Department during the years 1100-1104, is laid on the table.

Appointment of a Commissioner for enquiry into Laws' Delays.

145. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what action they have taken with regard to the proposal to appoint a Commissioner for enquiry into Laws' Delays in Travancore;

(*b*) why the matter was pending so long without any definite action being taken in the matter; and

(*c*) whether the delay is due to the difficulty of selecting a proper person to be appointed as the Commissioner?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Provision on account of the Commissioner for enquiry into Laws' Delays in Civil Courts and the necessary staff, has been made in the budget for 1105.

(*b*) Definite action is being taken.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, may I know the six months' history of the "definite action" taken on the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are various stages in the consideration of the question. It was always under consideration. The subject matter was engaging Government's attention.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): The answer is that action was being taken—

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): *Is* being taken.

* *Vide* Appendix X—page 392.

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